

**Program of the working visit to Switzerland of the delegation of the
Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation
Group on Cooperation with the Federal Assembly of Switzerland**

**headed by the Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Federation,
Head of the Group on Cooperation with the Federal Assembly of Switzerland Mr. Yury Vorobiev**

Zurich-Bern-Fribourg, 17th-18th of June 2015

Participants:

Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation:

Mr. Yury Vorobiev, Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Federation, Head of the Group on Cooperation with the Federal Assembly of Switzerland;

Mr. Vladimir Dzhabarov, First Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Federation Committee on Foreign Affairs;

Mr. Stepan Kirichuk, First Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Federation Committee on the Federal Structure, Regional Policies, Local Self-Governance and Affairs of the North;

Mrs. Liudmila Bokova, Deputy Chairperson Council of the Federation Committee on Constitutional Legislation and State-building. The delegation will be accompanied by

Mr. Vladimir Lozbinev, Head of the Cabinet of the Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Federation Y.L.Vorobiev,

Mrs. Olesya Podolina, Advisor of the Bilateral Inter-parliamentary Cooperation Division of the International Relations Department.

Ms. Anna Balashova, Interpreter.

Embassy of the Russian Federation to Switzerland:

H.E.Alexander V.Golovin, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Switzerland

Mr.Maxim Turilov, First Secretary of the Embassy

Federal Assembly of the Swiss Confederation:

SR Filippo Lombardi and **NR Jean-François Steiert**, Co-chair of the Group of friendship Switzerland-Russia,

SR Géraldine Savary and **NR Jean-François Rime**, members of the Group of Friendship

Ms. Alla Ramilova, Secretary of the Group of friendship Switzerland-Russia.

Mr. Cedric Stucky, Foreign affairs advisor of the Swiss Parliament

Mr. Raphaël Wirth, DEACO, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

17 June, Wednesday

- 12.35 Arrival of the Delegation, *Zurich Airport, flight SU-2390 from Moscow*
Transfer to Bern, to the Hotel Bellevue
- 14.30 Arrival to Bern, check-in at the Hotel Bellevue, welcome drink
- 15.45 Departure to the Erlacher Hof, Junkerngasse 47, Bern
- 16.00 Welcome by the Chancellor of the city of Bern, **Jürg Wichter** in the Erlacher Hof
Short guided tour in the old city of Bern
- 18.30 Return to Hotel Bellevue
- 19.45 Transfer to the Embassy of the Russian Federation
- 20.00 Official Dinner on behalf of the Ambassador of the Russian Federation in Switzerland
H.E Alexander Golovin (Russian Delegation, Lombardi, Steiert, Rime, Savary, Ramilova)

18 June, Thursday

- 08.00 Breakfast at the Hotel Bellevue
- 08.50 Departure from the Hotel Bellevue by walk to the Federal Palace
- 09.00 Meeting with the President of the Council of States, **H.E. SR Claude Hêche**
- 09.30 Guided visit to the Federal Palace, official greetings at the balcony of both Chambers
- 10.30 Courtesy visit to the Secretary of State, **H.E. Yves Rossier**, Foreign Affairs Department
- 11.30 Short press meeting (“point de presse”) in the Federal Palace, meeting room Nr. 2
- 12.00 Lunch at the Hotel Bellevue, offered by the Friendship Group Switzerland-Russia
- 13.00 Transfer to Fribourg (luggage in the cars)
- 13.30 Seminar on Federalism, at Federalism Institute of the University of Fribourg, Avenue du Midi 1,
(see attached program for details)
- 17.45 Short guided tour to the old city of Fribourg
- 18.15 Meeting with the Chancellor of the Canton of Fribourg, **Mrs. Danielle Gagnaux-Morel**
and the Secretary of the Cantonal Parliament, **Mrs. Mireille Hayoz**, farewell cocktail offered by
the Canton of Fribourg in the City Hall (Place de l’Hôtel de Ville 3, Fribourg)
- 19.30 Transfer to Zurich Airport
- 22.35 Departure to Moscow, *flight SU 2393*

Seminar Program

Federalism and decentralization, model solutions for modern States?

In cooperation with the Institute of Federalism, University of Fribourg
(simultaneous translation Russian-German will be provided)

General political introduction, objectives of the seminar and the ongoing discussion on federalism

SR Filippo Lombardi, H.E. . Yuri Vorobiev

The Swiss federal model: State institutions, languages and religions

Prof. Eva Maria Belser, Institute of federalism

Discussion and coffee break

The Russian federal model

MP Stepan Kirichuk, Council of the Russian Federation

Swiss federalism: the financial implications

Prof. Peter Hänni, director of the Institute of Federalism

General discussion: federalism and decentralization as possible solutions for multicultural modern States

Conclusions of the seminar

H.E. Yuri Vorobiev, SR Filippo Lombardi

Official greetings from the Government of the Canton of Fribourg and closing of the seminar

Mrs. Marie Garnier, vice-president of the State Council of the Canton of Fribourg